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FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 022119.GEN

21 February 2019

Applicable to: This FLEET / SAFETY LETTER should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators and Masters of Vanuatu-registered ships, and Recognized Organizations.

Ballast Water Management Plans (BWMP)

1. The Guidelines for Ballast Water Management and Development of Ballast Water Management Plans (G4) were adopted by Resolution MEPC.127(53) on 22 July 2005. Plans approved on or after the adoption date but prior to 26 April 2019 shall be approved in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution.
2. Amendments to the Guidelines for Ballast Water Management and Development of Ballast Water Management Plans (G4) were adopted by Resolution MEPC.306(73) on 26 July 2018. Plans approved on or after 26 April 2019 (i.e. application date) shall be approved in accordance with Resolution MEPC.127(53) as amended by the MEPC.306(73).
3. The amendments add a new paragraph 4.3 which requires contingency measures in case a ship is unable to manage ballast water in accordance with its approved Ballast Water Management Plan to meet the D-1 or D-2 standard. The amendments refer to the *Guidance on contingency measures under the BWM Convention* published as BWM.2/Circ.62.
4. Plans which have been approved as per item 1 above need not be re-submitted for approval for compliance with the amendments. However, the Plans shall include a new section for *Contingency Measures* not later than 26 April 2019, either:
 - A) as an annex to the existing approved Plan; or,
 - B) by inserting a new section within the existing approved Plan indicating the date of the revision.
5. Plans which are revised on or after the application date of the amendments to include new procedures such as adding a new section in the Plan due to the installation of a Ballast Water Management System for compliance with the D-2 Standard shall comply with the amendments.
6. Vessels coming into the Vanuatu Registry with Plans already approved by a Vanuatu RO need not be re-approved provided that they have been approved in accordance with the above instructions based on the existing approval date under the previous flag.



Roderick A. Acquie
by the direction of the
Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs
The Republic of Vanuatu